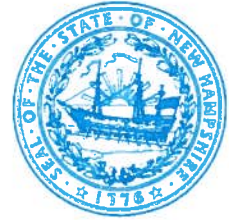




The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



January 12, 2016

The Honorable Nancy Stiles, Chairman
Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Senate Bill 359 – funding electric vehicle charging stations

Dear Chairman Stiles and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) regarding Senate Bill 359 that would permit municipalities to fund improvements in electric vehicle charging stations with funds from the municipal and transportation improvement fund. NHDES supports this bill.

Motor vehicles account for approximately one-half of the emissions of air pollutants that cause the formation of ground level ozone and over one-third of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Ground level ozone is a respiratory irritant that can cause severe health impacts to the sick, the very young, the elderly, and those with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma. Greenhouse gases contribute to climate change, which is causing more frequent and more extreme weather events that have led to loss of life and significant damage to statewide infrastructure, particularly our roads and bridges.

A key strategy to reducing both ozone-forming and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, as identified in the 2009 New Hampshire Climate Action Plan¹, is to support the transition to cleaner fuels and advanced technology vehicles. Electric vehicles (EV) have zero tailpipe emissions and, even when factoring in emissions from the generation of electricity used to charge their batteries, have significantly lower overall emissions than conventional vehicles. Through a 2015 resolution of the New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers², New Hampshire committed to work regionally to advance deployment of advanced technology vehicles and supporting infrastructure, including EV charging infrastructure. New Hampshire also participates in the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a collaboration of eleven mid-Atlantic and Northeast states and the District of Columbia that seeks to develop the clean energy economy and reduce oil dependence and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

¹ http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm

² <http://www.cap-cpma.ca/images/Newsroom/Photo%20Gallery/NEG/Res38-2Transportation-AFV.pdf>

Four of the six New England states have signed on to a memorandum of understanding that seeks to place over three million EVs on the road by 2025³. Senate Bill 359 will provide municipalities the opportunity to install supporting infrastructure for this next generation of clean vehicles, supporting transportation options for their own residents, and supporting travel to their communities by visitors from other regions, including our New England neighbors.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 359. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Craig Wright, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, craig.wright@des.nh.gov), or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau (271-6749, Rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov) .

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 359: Sens. Watters, Boutin, Kelly

³ http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/2013/8s_zev_mou.pdf